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May 31, 1996

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SECTION 3

DEMONSTRATION IN NAZARETH WILL FURTHER STRAIN

RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAELI JEWS AND ARABS.

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DECAPTIONED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
() RELEASE
() EXCISE
() DENY
() DECLASSIFY
() DECLASSIFY IN PART
EO Citations
Date: 3/18/98
FOIA Exemptions 31
PA Exemptions
() CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C

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B. PLO LEADERSHIP SURPRISED BY VIOLENCE

INR COMMENT: []

[] (SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON)

3. PERSIAN GULF

A. MILITARY UPDATE

IRAN HIT A THIRD SHIP IN THE LOWER GULF JANUARY 22,
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, []

IRAQI WARPLANES FLEW NUMEROUS MISSIONS OVER THE
NORTHERN GULF JANUARY 23 [] IRAQ
ANNOUNCED THE COMMANDER OF ITS V CORPS--SCENE OF

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RECENT BORDER FIGHTING--WAS KILLED IN A HELICOPTER
CRASH JANUARY 22 BUT DENIED IRANIAN CLAIMS TO HAVE
SHOT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS.
IRAQ ALSO SAID ITS PLANES ATTACKED AN IRANIAN SAM
SITE ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT--

(SECRET) (NOFORN)

B. CHINESE ARMS SHIPMENT UPDATE

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(SECRET [] /NOFORN)

4. NICARAGUA: SANDINISTA MOBS ATTACK OPPOSITION
HEADQUARTERS

SANDINISTA AGITATORS (TURBAS) JANUARY 22 THREW ROCKS
AT OPPOSITION UMBRELLA GROUP (CDN) HEADQUARTERS AS
CDN LEADERS MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-SANDINISTA
MOTHERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS MOVEMENT, ACCORDING
TO EMBASSY MANAGUA AND PRESS REPORTS. LATER AT A
PRO-SANDINISTA RALLY, COMMANDER ARCE THREATENED TO
CRUSH THE OPPOSITION.

INR COMMENT: THE TURBA ATTACK, OSTENSIBLY A
SPONTANEOUS RESPONSE TO THE REMOVAL OF A SANDINISTA
FLAG FROM CDN HEADQUARTERS, RECENTLY HAD BEEN
THREATENED TWICE IN THE SANDINISTA PRESS. FEARING
COMPETITION FROM AN OPPOSITION MARCH ANNOUNCED IN
THE ANTI-SANDINISTA LA PRENSA' THE SANDINISTAS ACTED
TO ENSURE THEIR RALLY WOULD BE THE ONLY SHOW IN
TOWN. DESPITE LIFTING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, THE
SANDINISTAS APPEAR DETERMINED TO PREVENT THE
OPPOSITION FROM GAINING MOMENTUM. (CONFIDENTIAL) CK

5. ICELAND: PROBLEMS IN BACKGROUND AS PRESIDENT
VISITS US

ICELAND'S CEREMONIAL PRESIDENT FINNBOGADOTTIR WILL
MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT JANUARY 26 DURING AN

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UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY
REYKJAVIK. THE POPULAR PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED SHE WILL
SEEK REELECTION THIS YEAR TO ANOTHER FOUR-YEAR
TERM. BY TRADITION, SHE WILL NOT BE OPPOSED.

INR COMMENT: POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN
US-ICELANDIC RELATIONS WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED BUT LIE
IN THE BACKGROUND. A US-ICELANDIC CONFRONTATION WAS
AVOIDED IN 1987 WHEN THE US POSTPONED CERTIFYING

THAT ICELAND HAD VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL WHALING
COMMITTEE (IWC) REGULATIONS BY CONDUCTING
"SCIENTIFIC" RESEARCH WHALING THAT DID NOT MEET IWC
SPECIFICATIONS. [

(CONFIDENTIAL)

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